(b) whether such cards are being issued free initially but later renewal/service charges are being debited to customers' accounts without their prior consent and knowledge; and

(c) what steps are being taken by RBI to curb such unscrupulous practices indulged into by banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that in the case of credit/debit cards, the relation between the bank and the cardholder is contractual. In order to promote credit/debit cards, many banks waive the joining fee (normally issued free) in the first year and charge annual fee, renewal fee, service charges, etc. for the subsequent years as per the contractual terms and conditions specified by these banks. In the case of credit cards, the question of debiting the accounts does not arise as the card holders need not necessarily be account holders of the bank.

(c) Banks have been advised by RBI to clearly spell out fees/charges (membership, renewal, service charges, penal charges etc.) to the cardholder at the time of their applying for credit cards. In particular, banks are required to bring to the notice of the cardholder the rates of interest to be charged in case of delays and default in payments, besides the membership/renewal fees.

In the case of debit cards, RBI have advised banks that each bank should make available to the cardholders in writing a set of contractual terms and conditions governing the issue and use of such a card. The customer availing of the credit/debit card is expected to go through the terms and conditions before accepting the card.

Grants-in-aid to State Governments

732. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the 11th Finance Commission has recommended for release of grant-in-aid to the State Governments for utilization of the Local Bodies;

(b) if so, the details of the relevant recommendation and the amount sanctioned for period 2000-2005 for each State Government;

(c) the amount released between 2000-2001 and 2002-03, year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the due instalment of the grant for the year 2002-2003 has so far not been released to a number of States; and

(e) if so, details in this regard and by when the instalment would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Eleventh Finance Commission in its report covering five year period 2000-05 had recommended grants to the Local Bodies to the extent of Rs. 10,000 crores comprising of Rs. 8,000 crores for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Rs. 2,000 crores for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). A Statement showing State-wise allocation and year-wise releases made so far is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Due instalments of the grant for the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 have been released to the States, taking into account utilisation reported and adherence to the conditionalities as per the guidelines of the scheme.

Statement

Allocation and Release of local bodies grants as per the recommendations of EFC

Panchayati Raj institutions

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Annual Allocation	Released 2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 So far	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15204.83	0.00	15204.83	15204.83	7602.41	38012.07
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	556.85	278.42	0.00	0.00	835.27	1113.69
3.	Assam	4668.95	0.00	4668.95	2334.47	—	7003.42
4.	Bihar	10875.00	0.00	10875.00	16312.50	10875.00	38062.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	4200.39	2100.00	6300.79	4200.38	2100.19	14701.36
6.	Goa	185.45	92.72	278.19	92.72	—	463.63
7.	Gujarat	6960.87	0.00	6960.87	10441.30	—	17402.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8.	Haryana	2941.75	1470.88	4412.63	2941.74	1470.87	10296.12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1313.38	656.68	1970.08	656.69	1313.38	4596.83
10.	J and K	1488.14	744.06	744.08	0.00		1488.14
11.	Jharkhand	4825.76	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
12.	Karnataka	7882.35	3941.18	11823.53	3941.17	3941.17	23647.05
13.	Kerala	6592.58	3296.28	9888.88	6592.58	6592.58	26370.32
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10109.00	5054.70	15163.30	10109.00	10109.00	40436.00
15.	Maharashtra	13134.58	6567.28	19701.88	6567.29	6567.28	39403.73
16.	Manipur	375.43	187.72	563.15	0.00		750.87
17.	Meghalaya	512.16	256.08	768.24	256.08	768.24	2048.64
18.	Mizoram	157.11	78.56	235.67	157.10	157.11	628.44
19.	Nagaland	257.33	128.66	386.01	128.66		643.33
20.	Orissa	6911.76	3455.88	10367.64	3455.88	3455.88	20735.28
21.	Punjab	3092.71	0.00	0.00	9278.13		9278.13
22.	Rajasthan	9818.96	4909.48	14728.44	4909.48		24547.40
23.	Sikkim	105.85	52.92	158.79	52.92		264.63
24.	Tamil Nadu	9322.36	4661.18	13983.54	4661.18	9322.36	32628.26
25.	Tripura	569.19	284.60	853.79	284.59		1422.98
26.	Uttar Pradesh	23342.67	11671.34	35014.01	11671.33	23342.66	81699.34
27.	Uttaranchal	3040.00	1520.00	4560.00	0.00		6080.00
28.	West Bengal	11554.59	5777.30	17331.89	5777.29		28886.48
	TOTAL :	160000.00	57185.92	206944.18	120027.31	88453.40	472610.81

Urban Local Bodies

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Annual Allocation	Released 2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 So far	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3293.14	1646.58	4102.56	2483.71		8232.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.67	6.84	6.83	20.50		34.17
3.	Assam	430.84	215.42	215.42	646.26		1077.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	1340.94	0.00	0.00	3352.35		3352.35
5.	Chhattisgarh	572.23.	286.10	858.36	572.23	286.11	2002.80
6.	Goa	92.73	46.36	139.10	46.36		231.82
7.	Gujarat	2650.46	1325.22	1325.24	3975.69		6626.15
8.	Haryana	732.80	366.40	1099.20	732.80	366.40	2564.80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	77.84	38.92	38.92	116.76	77.84	272.44
10.	J and K	313.16	156.58	156.58	469.74		782.90
11.	Jharkhand	537.00	0.00	0.00	1342.50		1342.50
12.	Karnataka	2496.39	1248.20	1248.19	3744.58		6240.97
13.	Kerala	1504.91	752.46	2257.36	1504.91	1504.91	6019.64
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2548.00	1274.00	1274.00	3822.00	3822.00	10192.00
15.	Maharashtra	6325.09	3162.54	9487.64	3162.54		15812.72
16.	Manipur	87.92	43.96	43.96	131.88		219.80
17.	Meghalaya	53.98	27.00	26.98	80.97		134.95
18.	Mizoram	76.89	38.44	115.34	76.89	76.89	307.56
19.	Nagaland	35.72	17.86	17.86	53.58		89.30
20.	Orissa	799.20	399.60	1198.80	399.60	1198.80	3196.80
21.	Punjab	1094.53	547.26	547.27	1641.79		2736.32
22.	Rajasthan	1988.32	994.16	2982.48	994.16	1988.32	6959.12
23.	Sikkim	4.16	2.08	2.08	6.24		10.40
24.	Tamil Nadu	3867.34	1933.66	5801.02	1933.67	3867.34	13535.69
25.	Tripura	80.32	40.16	120.48	40.16	120.48	321.28
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4557.64	2278.90	6836.38	2278.82	4557.64	15951.74
27.	Uttaranchal	475.00	237.42	237.58	712.50		1187.50
28.	West Bengal	3949.78	1974.90	5924.66	3949.78	3949.78	15799.12
	TOTAL :	40000.00	19061.02	46064.29	38292.97	21816.51	125234.79

Committee on irregularities on Allotment of Retail Outlets

733. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Two Judge Committee is looking into the irregularities of allotment of Retail Outlets (RO)/LPG distributorships;

(b) if so, the criteria followed for referring cases to this Committee and the number of cases referred to this Committee;